

Mahoney Sends Letter to GAO Requesting Independent Assessment of Body Armor for Troops in Combat

June 7, 2007

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) today requested an independent assessment of the various body armor systems currently being used by U.S. troops in combat. A recent NBC report raised concerns about the way the military tested the Interceptor Body Armor currently used by troops and the Pinnacle Dragon Skin Armor that some consider superior. This report, coupled with ongoing assertions that superior body armor is available, prompted Mahoney to cosign a letter with Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-02) and several other colleagues requesting that the Government Accountability Office investigate the matter.

"Our troops deserve the best equipment available to protect themselves while defending our country. It is important that we reevaluate the testing procedures for body armor to make sure we get our soldiers the best protection available. If the study concludes that superior body armor is available, I will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that this equipment gets to our troops in combat immediately," said Congressman Tim Mahoney.

The letter requests that the GAO:

- Evaluate the Interceptor Body Armor against other armor currently available, including Dragon Skin to determine which body armor system is more effective;
- Evaluate the testing procedure used by the Army to evaluate body armor products and;
- Examine how body armor policies are applied across the conventional and Special Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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